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## Introduction

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In North Dakota, we are seeing an increased trend in schools utilizing coaches to assist with literacy and math instruction. Instructional coaches may be given a different title, such as intervention specialists or mentors. Whatever the title of this position, the basic role of an instructional coach is to increase the instructional capacity of teachers so they can better incorporate literacy or math into their instruction (Hall, 2004). An instructional coach is one who supports others in building their teaching skills, assists others in applying new knowledge, and provides ongoing professional development.

The most important thing to remember is instructional coaches are not there to evaluate teacher performance, but rather to provide continuous support for instructional improvement. The use of instructional coaches can be a powerful intervention with great potential to improve teacher performance and raise academic achievement. Implementing instructional coaches can play a major role in facilitating school's/district's professional development initiatives.

The resources generated pertaining to instructional coaches were organized into categories which include:

- Job Responsibilities of an Instructional Coach
- Qualifications for Instructional Coaches
- Funding Sources for Instructional Coaches
- Recommendations from North Dakota Instructional Coaches
- Interviews with Instructional Coaches
- Questions and Answers
- Evaluating the Use of Instructional Coaches
- Resources on Instructional Coaches

All of the resources generated on the topic of instructional coaches can be accessed at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/coaches.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/coaches.shtm) on the Department of Public Instruction's website.